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Daily Eastern News: April 20, 2007

Eastern Illinois University

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CAMPUS | HOUSE BILL 1826



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Karen Hayes, the acting state director for Concerned Women for America of Illinois talks about the possible health risks of a homosexual relationship on Thursday night at the 7th Street Underground.

Civil union debate stays civil

Directors of Equality Illinois and Concerned Women of America of Illinois square off

By Angela Pham
Staff Reporter

Stan and Delbra Pratt drove from Taylorville for the event.

Stan Pratt, a pastor for the non-denominational The Way of Life church, said he didn't know what to expect.

Delbra Pratt said it was their first time attending a debate.

They didn't expect more than 65 people in attendance for a civil rights debate between two of Illinois' major policy and human rights organizations.

"I watched their faces," said Delbra Pratt of the student audience members. "They were very interested and probing and thoughtful."

The debate, sponsored by EIU Pride, took place Thursday in 7th Street Underground in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Dan Koteski, action director for EIU Pride and senior history and journalism major, said this is the first time a Pride-sponsored debate has been hosted by Eastern.

Koteski said the idea for the debate was based on the recently proposed House Bill 1826, which would legalize civil unions in Illinois for homosexuals.

The debate was between Rick Garcia, the public policy director for the state's leading gay rights organization, Equality Illinois, and Karen Hayes, the acting state director for Concerned Women of America of Illinois. Hayes' organization is a conservative Christian group.

» SEE **UNIONS**, PAGE 5

UPI plans trip to Springfield

Table outside food court allows students to write postcards to state legislators

By Ashley Rueff
Senior University Reporter

In support of Lobby Day, organized by the Higher Education Legislation Coalition (HELCO), campus members are being asked to write their legislators and share their opinions on funding for higher education.

Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois are part of the state-

JOHN ALLEN | UPI VICE PRESIDENT

“We want to urge powerful people in our state government to place higher emphasis on higher education.”

wide coalition and will be asking people to fill out postcards to give to top government officials.

The postcards will be taken to Springfield on Wednesday, April 25 when members of Eastern's campus go to be part of HELCO's Lobby Day. The coalition includes universities, unions and organizations that are in support of increased funding for higher education, said Sue Kaufman, a founder of the coalition and

President of UPI Local 4100.

"This is a very broad-based group," Kaufman said. "We're looking at upwards from 500-800 people that are going to be in Springfield next Wednesday."

UPI set up a table outside of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Food Court Thursday to ask people to fill out postcards. They will also be in the Union from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, Monday and Tuesday

in hopes of getting as many postcards as possible.

"We want to urge powerful people in our state government to place higher emphasis on higher education," said UPI's vice president John Allison. "Tuition have been going up and up and up, and that's largely because the state has been funding higher education at lower and lower levels."

UPI displayed a graph that showed how tuition had increased while state funding had decreased in Illinois since 2002, with a note that read, "If you care about quality and affordability at EIU, write you legislators!"

» SEE **UPI**, PAGE 5

Greeks go back to grade school

Fraternities and sororities visit Jefferson Elementary School and dedicate the day to St. Jude's Children's Hospital

By Taylor Thompson
Staff Reporter

Eastern Greeks invaded Jefferson Elementary School for a day of fun, all in the spirit of St. Jude.

Jefferson Fun Days, a day dedicated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Research Center, is where the third, fourth and fifth graders of Jefferson Elementary School get a day of entertainment and a chance to meet some of the Greek members from around the community.

"I think it's great for the relationship between Eastern and the elementary school," said Paula Pogue, who has been a fourth grade teacher at Jefferson for 33 years. "It gives the students here a chance to meet and get to know some of the older students of the area."

The event is broken into three different event areas: arts and crafts, scavenger hunt and bag tossing, and obstacle course and limbo.

Mallory Devens, a sophomore elementary education major, headed up the tie-dyeing area, "There are three stations and the groups rotate after every so many minutes."

At the tie dying station, the students had the opportunity to make head wraps for the children of the St. Jude Research Hospital.

Students in each group made comments on how "cool" the project was. One student exclaimed "I hope they like this," after finishing the headband.

"We are making 300 head wraps for the kids at St. Jude," Devens said. "This gives the student here a chance to make something special to give to the kids of St. Jude."

The sounds of excitement filled the air as the students unbundled their head wraps, sharing their finished designs with friends.

"It's wonderful what they are doing for St. Jude with the bandanas," Pogue said, "Out of all the projects of the last few years, this is probably the best."

After the tie-dye station, the students and their Greek escorts eagerly moved to the next station, which was the scavenger hunt and bag toss game. Upon arriving at the station the Greek student leaders split the group of about 40 children in two groups. The first group plays the bag toss game and the second



LIZA BISHTON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Sean Hussey, a sixth grader, plays bags with a friend during Jefferson Fun Days on at Jefferson Elementary School Thursday morning. The event is dedicated to the kids at St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Research Center. A tie-dyeing station allowed the Jefferson Elementary students to make head wraps for the kids at St. Jude's.

group has 20 minutes to do the scavenger hunt before the groups switch.

For the scavenger hunt the students recieved a list of 19 things to find, including a person wearing Greek letters and the two streets their school is located on. The students ran frantically from one college student volunteer to the next yelling out, "Did you drink milk this morning?" or "Are you wearing a watch?"

The last area seemed to be the most enjoyable area for the kids and volunteers: the obstacle course.

"My favorite station today had to be the obstacle course!" said Cole Drake, 10.

The course started with about 10 seconds

of hula hooping, then tossing the hoop over an orange cone. Next the student would bowl to knock down pins until they were all down, then moved to the zigzag floor cart obstacle track where they had to maneuver around points in the track while sitting on a four-wheeled floor cart.

Jefferson Fun Days is a planned Greek Week event and has been an activity for the last several years.

It's a fun-filled day for the students of Jefferson Elementary School dedicated to the kids of St. Jude and its research center.

Drake, when asked if he understood what the purpose of today's event was, said, "It's about helping the people of St. Jude."

Blood? ‘It’s worth it’

Tugs semifinals take place today

By Steven Teeters
Staff Reporter

As a part of Eastern’s Greek week, the tournament of tugs will continue today at 3 p.m. with the All-Division Tugs at the Campus Pond.

The all-division semifinals will be the second-to-last day of Tugs for Greek Week as the men and women of the remaining teams tug-it-out in the round of four for a place in the championship.

Lambda Chi Alpha will face off against Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Sigma Pi will go against Sigma Chi in the next round of Little Men Tugs Friday.

For women, Alpha Phi will tug against the Alpha Sigma Alpha.

Alpha Gamma Delta will face Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Big Men will put Sigma Pi against the Sig Eps, and Delta Tau Delta against Sigma Chi.

The Tugs tournament is divided between three groups: Little Men, Big Men, and Women – all of whom have been involved in training and conditioning to prepare for the Greek Week Tugs Tournament.

Four different teams from each division have already passed the first two single-elimination rounds and are preparing to face even more challenges in the upcoming rounds.

Training and conditioning vary from chapter to chapter, but is a serious part of the Tugs tournament.

With precise weight limits placed on the different divisions, fraternities and sororities have had to deal with problems of students being overweight, underweight or even malnourished from an



NORA MABERRY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Rachel Larsen of Delta Delta Delta goes into the water during women’s tugs on Wednesday at Campus Pond. Tugs will continue on Friday.

DIANE PAPPAS | FRESHMAN

“You can’t feel your legs, or your arms, and you even bleed! But it’s worth it. We’re out for blood, and we’re coming back Friday!”

unhealthy diet, which is a problem that the Greek community has had to deal with.

As finals for Tugs approach, practices are getting harder and restrictions even more harsh in order to prepare for the last stretch of Greek Week.

“For this week we’ve really been working on conditioning,” said freshman Sig Ep Chris Darimont. “More technique, more fine tuning. It’s not about brute strength anymore, but more form.”

Physical conditioning aside,

others involved in the tournament are keeping a positive mindset to help them with their tugging.

“It’s very tough,” said an out-of-breath freshman Tugs anchor Diane Pappas, after her personal struggle with the rope on Wednesday. “You can’t feel your legs, or your arms, and you even bleed! But it’s worth it.”

Expressing feelings shared among the remaining teams in the tournament, Pappas added, “We’re out for blood, and we’re coming back Friday!”

Windows Vista, Web CT, Banner debated today

Academic Technology Advisory Committee meets today; meeting open to public

By Graham Milldrum
University Reporter

Windows Vista is the hot topic today for the Academic Technology Advisory Committee.

The committee is in charge of gathering and interpreting data about the various technological devices and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees. They commonly deal with the servers, computers and software on campus.

The budget for the meeting includes an update on WebCT, Banner and server virus issues.

Discussion topics include the addition of Windows Vista to certain computers on the campus.

Chat Chatterji, assistant vice-president for Information

ATAC MEETING

- » **When:** Today at 2 p.m.
- » **Where:** Room 4440 of Booth Library
- » **What:** The Committee will discuss Windows Vista, WebCT and Banner.

WHAT IS WINDOWS VISTA?

- » Windows Vista is a line of graphical operating systems used on personal computers.
- » Windows Vista includes an updated graphical appearance, improved searching features, new multimedia creation tools and completely redesigned networking.
- » Microsoft claims that Windows Vista has better security features than Windows XP.

Technology Services, said he expects most computers that are ordered will continue to be XP machines. He said some vice presidents have banned Vista in their offices, except

by special request.

“People will not want to be on the bleeding edge of Vista,” he said.

Michael Hoadley, assistant vice president for academic affairs for technology, said that he wants as much input from the campus as possible, so ATAC can be sure it’s doing what the campus wants and needs.

There is a discussion plan, but the staff leaves time for visitors to discuss what they want, Hoadley said.

Chatterji said that although the meetings center around the committee member’s discussions, the meetings are open to the public.

But there is normally a low turn out by campus members, he said.

Bill Witsman, director for Banner, said that coming to the meetings are a great way for the campus to influence what the technology departments should do.

The committee will meet at 2 p.m. today in Room 4440 of the Booth Library.

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You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected on this page as promptly as possible.

To aid The Daily Eastern News in its quest for accuracy, please report any factual error you find in any edition of The Daily Eastern News by e-mail, phone, campus mail or in person.

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Students reflect on Virginia Tech

By Michelle Simek
Health & Science Reporter

MALLORY ALCOCK | JUNIOR SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJOR

“This is something I don’t know how to deal with, and talking to others is how I cope.”

After Monday’s shooting at Virginia Tech, one question was on Mallory Alcock’s mind.

What if it happened here?

An intimate group of 14 gathered in a circle in Pemberton Hall Thursday night to talk about the tragedy.

“What if these were my friends? What if this happened here at Eastern?” Alcock said.

That’s what was in her head when she decided to organize the discussion.

“This is something I don’t know how to deal with, and talking to others is how I cope,” said Alcock, a junior social sciences major and resident assistant in Pemberton. “How people are dealing with this has always been on my mind.”

The group discussed their first thoughts after hearing the news.

“It was a moment of shock,” a group member said. “Things like this aren’t supposed to happen, and I did not realize the magnitude until

later. It’s just devastating.”

Many group members’ parents phoned them the day of the tragedy or soon after to clear their consciences.

“Something like this can happen at anytime,” said Josh Boykin, a freshman English major. “This is the price we pay to have such freedoms in this country.”

While discussing the emotions, fear and devastation of the victim’s families and the students who witnessed the event, another group member had a different perspective.

“I feel bad for his (the shooter’s) parents,” she said. “They have to live with this agony of wondering what they did wrong.”

The discussion also addressed the initial shock of professors not mentioning the tragedy in class and other students just brushing the event off like it didn’t matter.

“This was a very somber thing and many of us have no control over this,” Boykin said.

Boykin also described his weariness of his surroundings after the event.

Another group member admitted her pity for the individuals who can relate to the shooter’s, the loners and the people by themselves.

The media’s coverage and the emphasis of the shooters race being the main target were scrutinized during the discussion.

“The media is all wrapped up in

the race issue,” said Carol Novander, sophomore elementary education major. “(The media) tends to focus on bigger problems than the shooter’s emotional detachments from the world and his personal problems.”

With the addition of the video manifesto in the last few days, the group heavily discussed his last words and his random choice of victims.

“The scary thing was he thought he was doing the right thing,” Boykin said.

The group ended on an optimistic note and encouraged those who attended to remember this day, and feel free to talk about their feelings and issues with other students.

CAMPUS | GREEK WEEK

Making a big splash

Lambda Chi Alpha, Kappa Delta win in canoes

By Beth Hackett
Senior Activities Reporter

The sprinklers at the Campus Pond, usually there for decorative purposes, drenched the ladies of the Sigma Kappa canoe team.

This might have been a reason for their loss against the women of Delta Delta Delta, who beat them with a time of 2 minutes, 22 seconds.

The sprinkler was shut off after the first heat.

Ashley Cook, a junior family and consumer science major and member of the Tri-Delta team, said it was difficult, but fun at the same time.

“We just went for it without any training and it ended up being so much fun,” she said.

Cook and teammate Lauren Stotts, a freshman biological sciences major, had both canoed before, but not at a professional level. The canoes took off at the bridge near the top of the pond where one team rowed the left side of the pond and the other rowed the right.

Both teams were required to round the buoy located at the bottom of the pond.

Alpha Phi and Sigma Sigma Sigma had a run-in at the buoy point when their canoes clashed against each other, causing Tri-Sigma to disrupt their flow.

Alpha Phi straightened out and won the race.



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Juniors Kiley O’Brien and Lauren Swords from Sigma Kappa paddle their way into the campus fountain during the Greek Week event “Canoes,” Thursday at Campus Pond.

Delta Zeta beat Alpha Sigma Tau with a time of 2:23.

Kappa Delta took first place in the women’s division when they beat Alpha Sigma Alpha.

The Alpha Gamma Delta canoe team competed solo and came back to the finish line after 2:54.

For the men’s division, Lambda Chi Alpha took first place of all the heats with a time of 1:28 against Sigma Chi.

Ryan Roth, a sophomore graphic design major, and teammate Jeff Traub, a junior business finance major, made it back to the finish line before the Sigma Chi men were halfway back.

“It feels good to win first place,” Roth said. “We did exactly what we wanted to do.”

Traub said he knew how to paddle before and Roth is a kayaker

so they were well prepared for this event.

Sigma Pi won a close call against Delta Tau Delta and Sigma Nu lost to Alpha Tau Omega.

Sig Ep teammates T.J. Tebbe, a senior finance major, and Paul Laubersheimer, a senior marketing major, said the match was intense.

“The northeast wind helped us when we were having some trouble getting around the buoy,” Tebbe said. “We got a little fatigued and tired about halfway through, but it was good.”

Both teammates donned water wings to express their enthusiasm for the event.

“We didn’t get a canoe and practice, but we sat on my twin bed and practiced rowing,” Tebbe said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon beat Delta Sigma Phi with a time of 1:37.

Phi Kappa Theta did not show up to compete so Pi Kappa Alpha struggled through their match alone.

The Pyramids event was a quick one.

In the women’s division, Alpha Gamma Delta finished in first place with Tri-Sigma finishing second and Kappa Delta third place.

Men’s teams that placed were Sigma Phi Epsilon in first, Sigma Nu in second place and Sigma Pi who took third.

Hans Monroy, a junior history major and member of Sigma Nu, said the event was a lot of fun and his team had practiced for the past week.

“Pyramids is my tugs,” he said. “All of Greek Week is fun and it’s great to see so many people come out to participate and watch.”

REO Speedwagon confirmed for Family Weekend

» REO Speedwagon has been confirmed as the music act for next fall’s Family Weekend.

The band’s Web site, www.speedwagon.com, said the band will play at 8 p.m. on Oct. 6 in Lantz Arena.

John Smithwood of Creative Artists Agency, the band’s representative, confirmed the date, which coincides with Eastern’s Family Weekend.

Last year, Foreigner was the band in town for Family Weekend.

Community actors to perform at Tarble

» The Charleston Community Theatre will present “Painting Churches” at 7:30 tonight at the Tarble Arts Center.

“Painting Churches,” written by Tina Howe, is about an elderly couple moving from Boston to the country and their daughter who wants to paint a portrait of her parents while she still has the chance. Director Ruth Straith was given options of plays to choose from. She says she almost didn’t choose this one because there are too many heavy props. Tickets to the show are \$10 for the general public, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for students.

Reservations can be made by calling the Tarble Arts Center at 581-2787.

Seating is limited, but not reserved.

— Rob Warren, staff reporter

4th Annual run/walk remembers Shannon McNamara

» Sunday is the Fourth Annual Shannon McNamara 4K Run/Walk.

Check-in time is 1 p.m. and start time is 2 p.m. People can still register Sunday for \$15.

McNamara, a former Eastern student an Alpha Phi, was murdered June 12, 2001. She was a physical education major and member of the Physical Education Honors Club.

— Cathy Bayer, news editor

ourmistakes

» The cutline was incorrect on Page 1 of Thursday’s edition of the Daily Eastern News. Ron Carrell of the University Police Department and Sam Cunningham were misidentified.

» In Thursday’s Tugs article on Page 1, the time of the match between Tri Sigma and Kappa Delta was incorrect. The match was the longest one of the day and lasted 2 minutes, 46 seconds.

Also in the article, the division of the Sigma Chi and Delta Sigma Phi match was incorrect. That match was in the Big Men’s division.

» Karen Hayes’ name was misspelled in the campus briefs on Page 3.

The DEN regrets the errors.

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:
Phone | **581-7942**,
E-mail | **DENnewsdesk@gmail.com**

COLUMNIST | MATT DANIELS

Tugging is out of control

Eastern officially has 23 sports this week. Not exactly, but it sure seems like it. No, gymnastics or field hockey hasn't been added as an Eastern sport this week.

Neither has equestrian or rodeo or riflmg made its arrival in Charleston.

Neither have lacrosse or men's rugby, both club sports here at Eastern, been added as a certified NCAA sport.

So, why all the large crowds and students – yes, actual apathetic Eastern students – walking across Fourth Street to venture over near all the Eastern athletic fields?

Oh yeah, for a little game of tug-of-war. The glorified Greek Week event Tugs is here. An event mostly outdated by the time a college student reaches high school, but one that swells in popularity once a student at Eastern becomes a brother or a sister of a fraternity or sorority here.

With this spectacle of all sporting spectacles, the Greek community at Eastern is out in full force to support these so-called athletes. The massive crowds that overtake the area near the campus pond are surreal. Larger crowds attend this athletic event (if Tugs can generously be called that) than most official athletic events at Eastern.

What a joke. Tuggers run miles upon miles, practice in the cold and train like most Eastern athletic teams do. And some do one of the most unthinkable things a college student can do: abstain from drinking.

People start training for tugs in January or even earlier. Tuggers have official weigh-ins, have their cleats checked and some participants lose as many as 20 pounds in order to qualify for the Little Men competition.

Wow. Talk about commitment. Or just plain stupidity? But, hey, who can blame them when this very own newspaper blows this childish competition out of the water?

Three front-page photos this week showing the excitement, determination and clear enjoyment that these tuggers are going through. Checking out dennews.com on Thursday, the Tugs competition had more feedback than the controversial Don Smith letter to the editor ripping minorities. Well, this campus has its priorities. And why?

All for maybe five minutes of glory and their place among the highest of all Greek immortals. Or maybe for a minute of embarrassment as a team gets overpowered right into the campus pond.

The few and the proud that remain standing can claim a win and advance onto the next round. The few unlucky end up in the campus pond (the first three people that touch the water in campus pond signify a loss to their Greek organization) with mud covering their T-shirts and sad, beaten looks on their faces.

This event has grown in absurdity every year I've been on campus.

But as long as there's Greek Week, there will be an event Greeks seem to enjoy even more so than getting drunk: Tugs.

Matt Daniels



Matt Daniels is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at mwdaniels@eiu.edu

Remembrance important

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Firstly, we would like to extend our most sincere condolences to the friends and families lost in the tragedy that happened at Virginia Tech.

April 16, 2007, will forever be remembered as the day a madman killed 32 innocent students and professors at Virginia Tech before cowardly taking his own life.

Just the same as we will never forget the events that unfolded on Monday morning, today will always be remembered as the day that two students in Littleton, Co., killed 12 students, one teacher and themselves at Columbine High School in 1999.

We are grateful to be members of a university that fortunately has not seen such a tragedy to this extent.

But we always need to remember it is possible for it to happen to us and we need to take precaution in order to prevent it. Although Cho Seung-Hui was obviously a sick, twisted individual and many have come out to say his rampage was unpreventable, it's impossible to put a number on how many tragedies may have been avoided simply by friends, family members and complete strangers looking out for one another.

Many people among us are chronically depressed, unhappy or angry. It's our duty as human beings to reach out and help others in times of need.

Cho sent a 23-page written statement, 28 video clips and 43 photos to NBC in hopes of forever being remembered for this atrocity. It is obvious that this evil act was

well planned and contemplated. It could have been avoided.

The package was sent to NBC during a two-hour gap between killings. During this interim two-hour period, it is clear that there was not enough communication on campus to prevent the second part of the killer's rampage.

Warning signs also were visible through his morbid writings and behavior – he made a game out of stalking women on campus. His roommates, classmates, community members and even family members have now come forward saying he was always a deranged individual, some even saying they imagined him going on a killing spree before it happened.

The media needs to do a better job in showing the seriousness of these horrific events instead of glorifying the actions of this perverse individual.

Touting Cho on the front page of many newspapers across the country and airing his deranged videotapes on television is giving this murderer what he wanted from the

media: instant popularity and admiration. There are already accounts of police unfolding the plans of “copycat killers” in various areas across the country and many schools and universities have been closed due to numerous bomb threats and death threats in the wake of Monday's events.

Also, we need to show our respect for the victims of this tragedy.

These 32 people did nothing to deserve Monday's massacre.

In honor of them, many people around campus are wearing maroon and orange, the color of the Virginia Tech Hokies.

Facebook groups have sprouted, dedicated to these victims.

People are being asked to wear black Monday, April 23, in support of a nationwide day of mourning for the victims of the tragedy. If so many people can wear green for St. Patrick's Day, they should also be able to show respect for these people who needlessly lost their lives.

On Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom, there will be a Virginia Tech Vigil held in remembrance of the victims.

Though it is important to show respect and remember these victims, it is even more important now to remember to help prevent further atrocities from taking place in our community.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the Opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | RICH LAKEBERG



OTHER VIEWS | OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Holocaust Memorial Week is winding down, and questions might linger in students' minds: Why should we care about an event that happened so long ago? Why should we watch films and documentaries that were made before any of us were born?

As famous philosopher and poet George Santayana said, “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Education is one of the main points of this week's events.

Most scholars identify Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, as the beginning of the Holocaust. Over a 13-year period six million Jews perished, along with 200,000 Romas, homosexuals, disabled and political prisoners.

But genocide hasn't ended with World War II. It continued in Indonesia, Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sudan and continues to this day in Darfur.

TO COMMENT.....

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All letters to the editor may be edited for accuracy, clarity and length. Letters 250 words or fewer have the best chance of being published. Only letters that include a name, address and phone number that are verified by *The DEN* will be considered for print publication.

You may also choose to join in conversations taking place online by going to www.dennews.com.

» Unions

FROM PAGE 1

Angela Aguayo, assistant professor of communication studies, introduced the debate and also served as moderator.

Garcia introduced his organization as “a statewide gay, lesbian and transgender ordinance in Illinois whose mission is to serve, protect and defend basic civil rights.”

He said that they believe homosexuals should be treated equally in every area.

Hayes said that CWA seeks “to protect and defend marriage as between one man and one woman.” She said CWA believes marriages should remain legally protected because homosexuality is “not beneficial to families and marriage.”

The first question regarded the cause or causes of homosexuality and whether the debaters thought it was innate.

“I know a lot of people who are offended just hearing (that question),” Garcia said. “As if anything’s wrong with it. What we know is that we don’t know what the genesis of homosexuality is.”

Garcia said that studies lean “heavily” toward a biological cause.

“I don’t care how you got to be gay,” he said. “There are gay and lesbian people, and they should not be treated any less than their heterosexual counterparts.”

Hayes agreed that scientific studies are not definite in their conclusions, but said that scientists are unsuccessful in their quest for a “gay gene.”

“Former bi and gay individuals support evidence that ‘gay’ is a choice,” Hayes said. “All sex is a behavior, no matter what kind, and all behavior is a choice.”

She said that although all people have attractions, sexual and otherwise, people have the choice to not act upon them.

The second question asked, “Is homosexuality a disorder or a natural orientation, like heterosexuality?”

Hayes responded with an analogy.

“Like a bird above our heads when we are children: we can shoo it away or let it nest,” Hayes said.

She said that like the choices of whether to attend Eastern or what

RICK GARCIA | PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR OF EQUALITY ILLINOIS

“I know a lot of people who are offended just hearing (that question). ”

a person decides to wear each day, homosexuality is a choice with consequences.

“Intimate sex choices not only affect you, but your relationship with others,” Hayes said. “(There are) social life, life expectancy and emotional consequences.”

She cited studies that said homosexuals are more frequently depressed and have other emotional and mental disorders than heterosexuals.

Garcia’s rebuttal blamed society in general for those disorders.

“Is it any wonder, when neighbors fail to recognize who we are? We are human beings who love,” Garcia said. “The choice to use junk science to degrade and berate gays is unhealthy.”

Whether homosexuality is a public concern or a private matter between two consenting adults was another question for the debaters.

Garcia said that all people should look at and be concerned about how gays and lesbians are treated, while Hayes said that there has been a recent agenda in gays attempting to gain legal protections that will “hurt and destroy” individuals, families and religious groups.

Hayes discussed studies she said found a higher rate of STDs, such as a new resistant strain of gonorrhea in homosexual men.

“I want you to hear and remember what she just said,” Garcia responded. “We are ‘a health risk,’ we are ‘a danger to society.’ Does that sound familiar?”

The final debate question asked was whether legal protection for homosexuals would strengthen or weaken families.

Emphasizing the sanctity of marriage, “no matter how flawed it is,” Hayes said granting marital rights to gays would erode important religious freedoms and would not protect family structure.

Garcia compared the banning of gay marriage to the former illegality of interracial marriages.

“This bill has nothing to do with religion,” he said. “What else do you not want us to have? Funeral decisions, pension rights of our partner, (the ability) to visit our partners in intensive care units?”

Debaters later fielded questions from the audience members.

Tristan Sodergren-Baar, a sophomore history major, asked Hayes if he had any statistics that say children are harmed by homosexual family situations.

“When you have children, a lot of factors are going into their psyche,” Hayes said.

She cited a study that concluded that “those who grew up in a lesbian household” were more likely to become homosexual themselves.

“It’s important for children to see a mom and a dad and how they interact with each other,” Hayes said.

Koteski said he was pleased with the debate and the turnout for the night.

“I wanted to do a debate, as opposed to a lecture, because with a debate, people are more likely to generate a dialogue and stand up for their principles, when their principles are being confronted,” Koteski said.

Justin Sudkamp, a junior English major and member of EIU Pride, agreed with the success of the debate.

“I think it went pretty well, although I would’ve liked to see more people here just because it would’ve been more people to hear the arguments,” Sudkamp said. “I don’t care which side, what people agree with, I just want people here.”

He appreciated that Hayes said no one deserves to be bullied, although he does not agree with her viewpoint on gay marriages.

Garcia said that although they have contrasting viewpoints on gay marriages and civil unions, he enjoyed debating Hayes.

“She’s respectful,” Garcia said of Hayes. “She’s never vulgar ... it’s good for public discussion.”

Both debaters appreciated the audience members’ participation and reactions.

“I think everybody asked respectful, good questions; they were all thoughtful,” Hayes said. “That is a testament to the school and to the students. They really wanted to know both sides, and not set up an antagonizing kind of thing.”

AB disagrees with bylaw change

By Zach Nugent
AB Reporter

The Apportionment Board disagreed with the Student Government’s vote to keep an emergency reserve at \$75,000 at Thursday’s meeting.

The AB’s emergency reserve used to be \$100,000, but was reduced to \$75,000.

The account was reduced because of an emergency allocation we granted to the Rec Center.

In order to increase the account, AB had to change its bylaws. In March, AB voted to increase its emergency reserve to \$100,000 – as it had been in the past.

Once AB voted to change its bylaws, the change was given to the

Student Government, which voted against the change.

AB Chair Levi Bulgar said the money in the emergency reserve account can still be used, but will be more closely examined.

After much debate, members voted to send a resolution to the Student Government stating the AB respectfully disagrees with the Student Government’s vote.

“We feel what we did was right and in the best interest of the students,” said AB member Travis Bounds.

In other business, after being delayed for several weeks, Student Government representatives gave their presentation on the Conference of Student Government Associations.

» UPI

FROM PAGE 1

“Imagine if everyone wrote just one postcard,” said UPI President Charles Delman.

After an hour and a half, UPI had around 50 postcards to take with them to the legislators on Wednesday.

HELC is a three-year-old organization, but this is its first effort of this size to get the attention of the decision-makers in Springfield.

“Beyond just a lobbying effort, we want to increase public awareness of public higher education,” Kaufman said.

She expects universities and organizations from the University of Illinois at Chicago to Southern Illinois University, and everything in-between, to participate.

HELC is holding a rally at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday in the parking lot of the Illinois Education Association at 100 E. Edwards St. Kaufman expects top legislators to attend the rally and said Gov. Rod Blagojevich might also attend.

“We have to draw attention to the funding of public higher education so that the public becomes more and more aware of how vital public higher education

LOBBY DAY

»Who: The Higher Education Legislation Coalition and anyone else who would like to attend

» When: Wednesday

» Where: Springfield

» Why: To urge the state government to place a higher emphasis on higher education

» How: Bus leaves Eastern at 7:45 a.m.

is to the economic growth and prosperity and success of this state,” Kaufman said.

Jill Nilsen, the vice president for external relations is organizing a bus to take anyone who is interested in participating in the Lobby Day to Springfield.

The university annually takes students to lobby in Springfield every spring, Nilsen said, but she’s happy to organize this year’s trip with HELC.

“This is really a nice opportunity for greater partnerships with other universities,” Nilsen said.

Eastern’s bus will leave at about 7:45 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. Wednesday. Other campus members are also traveling to Springfield for the rally on their own, Nilsen said. Anyone interested in going to Springfield with Eastern can contact Nilsen’s office at 581-5983.



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SUN MAT 1:15
HOAX (R) 4:30 7:10 9:45 SAT SUN MAT 1:50
PERFECT STRANGER (R) 5:10 7:50 10:20 SAT SUN
MAT 2:00
DISTURBIA (PG 13) 4:10 6:40 9:20 SAT SUN MAT 1:40
THE REAPING (R) 5:30 SAT SUN MAT 2:10
GRINDHOUSE (R) 8:00 ONLY
ARE WE DONE YET (PG) 5:00 7:30 9:40 SAT SUN
MAT 2:40
MEET THE ROBINSONS (G) 4:00 6:30 9:00 SAT SUN
MAT 1:30
BLADES OF GLORY (PG 13) 4:40 7:00 9:50 SAT SUN
MAT 1:00
WILD HOGS (PG 13) 5:20 7:40 10:00 SAT SUN MAT
2:20

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Pie Off: RHA members get pied at last meeting of the year

By **Katey Mitchell**
RHA Reporter

Residents gathered outside Andrews Hall as the Residence Hall Association executive board waited for their names to be called.

One by one they were called up to meet their fate.

The residents outside counted: "One, two, three..."

SPLAT!

The RHA executive board members and advisers were pied after the last RHA meeting of the year Thursday night.

The pies were part of an auction put on by the RHA financial advisory committee that was held during the meeting. The auction earned \$239, which was contributed to RHA housing scholarships fund.

Residents were eager to give their board members the taste of whipped cream in their mouths. People were scrambling together, going in and bidding on the chance to pie their favorite member.

Becky Wilson, the national communications coordinator/Illinois communications coordinator and Jody Stone, assistant director of housing and dining services raised the most money, earning \$35 each.

But a surprise that was added by Brittany Kraft, financial advisory



KATEY MITCHELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Justin Myers, RHA treasurer, (middle) gets a pie in the face by fellow executive board members Becky Wilson, national communications coordinator/Illinois communications coordinator, (left) and Carrie Mueller, RHA president, (right) as a form of initiation into the Residence Hall Association 2007-2008 executive board at the end of the RHA meeting last night.

committee chair, gave each member the chance of getting pied multiple times if they wanted to match the bid price.

Justin Myers, the current and 2007-08 RHA treasurer, got hit three times, twice by his current RHA board members as an initiation right.

Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining, was not up for auction, to many residents'

disappointment.

However, Alex Kaempein, RHA representative for Ford Hall, felt differently and during the meeting he said to the assembly, "It would not be as much fun with Mark. He has no hair for the whipped cream to stick to."

During the meeting, Sean Anderson, the student body president, spoke to RHA members about Panther Service Days,

which are April 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anderson was encouraging RHA members to venture out into their halls and get people to volunteer for the annual campuswide community service event.

Anderson said that Eastern students, faculty and staff get together to help paint and fix four local underprivileged families' homes.

"We want to get around 1,200 volunteers," Anderson said.

Anderson also told RHA members about the Virginia Tech vigil that will happen Tuesday, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Counseling Center and the University Police Department will attend to help answer students questions.

Banners will be available for signing and video cameras will also be set up so students can send messages to the students, faculty, families and friends of victims from Virginia Tech, Anderson said.

Later on, Jarrod Scherle, RHA secretary and president elect, sat down and explained the expenditures he and his 2007-08 executive board are proposing for welcome favors for move-in in the fall.

"We wanted to get keychain ID holders with the RHA logo on the pocket," Scherle said. "And inside there would be a tri-fold with ROC Fest and general RHA information planned out."

Scherle was elected on the platform of pushing public relations and has already started by making an effort to advertise at the beginning of the year, especially to freshmen. The key chains will cost RHA \$1.32 for 4,000 copies.

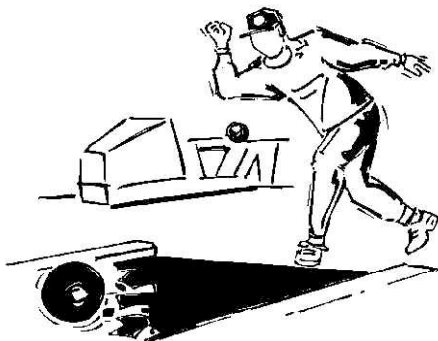
After some debate, the assembly voted that there would be a \$6,000 cap on the expenditure limit.

University Union Bowling Lanes

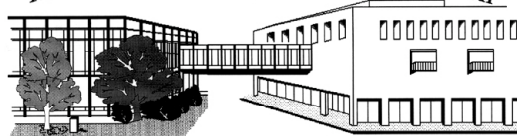
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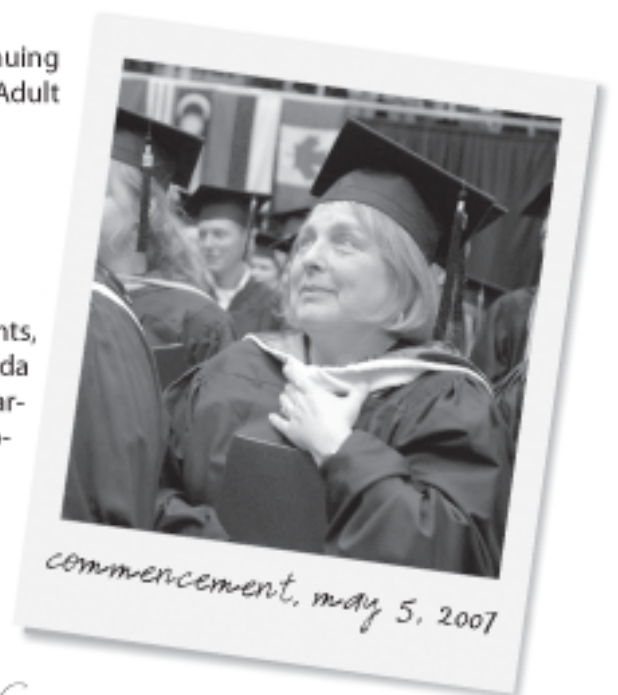
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MEN’S BASKETBALL | RECRUITING

Laser brings edge

New recruit says Panthers’ coaching staff effort made difference in decision

By Matt Daniels
Sports Editor

Tyler Laser doesn’t see what all the fuss is about. He just wants to play basketball and help his team win games. Labeled by a high school boy’s basketball blog on mlive.com in his home state of Michigan as “the most controversial player in state”, Laser signed last week to be Eastern head coach Mike Miller’s second new recruit for the 2007-08 season. But all the talk about Laser being cocky and unsportsmanlike in high school is backed up by one thing: he won games and scored points. “Well, mlive, for some reason, just loves to kill me,” Laser said. “But I guess, if they’re not talking about you, you’re apparently not doing anything.” And Laser did plenty in his high school career. Laser, a 6-foot-1 guard from Hillsdale, Mich., averaged 29.6 points last season, and finished with a school record 652 points his senior year. A four-year player on head coach Brad Felix’s teams at Hillsdale High School, Laser finished with 1,875 points in his career. He led his high school to a 19-3 record last year and his teams went 81-14 in his high school career. His team advanced to the Michigan state quarterfinals his sophomore year. Laser attracted the attention of Eastern’s coaching staff about halfway through the Panthers’ season.



Tyler Laser

BRAD FELIX | HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL HEAD COACH

“He has a little bit of an edge to him. He doesn’t want to lose. He might talk a little to the officials. He was trying to shake that more this year. I can see where his (bad reputation) comes from a little bit, but he’s never once spoken back to me. He’s very coachable. And the edge he has, is the edge a coach wants.”

RECRUITING CLASS

»There are two recruits in the 2007 class for the men’s basketball program.

» **Tyler Laser:** Guard; Hillsdale, Mich.; 6-foot-1; averaged 19.7 career points per game; averaged 29.6 ppg during his senior season

» **Matt Dorlack:** Center; New Berlin, Wis.; 6-foot-11; averaged 12.4 ppg, 9.1 rebounds per game; 3.4 blocked shots all as a junior

Miller said Laser’s scoring numbers initially peaked their interest. Then, after seeing a tape of Laser playing, the Eastern coaching staff went up and saw him play. Laser said the coaching staff came up to five of his games. The effort Eastern put into Laser left a lasting impression on him. Schools like Siena, Buffalo, Ohio and Cleveland State, among others, were looking into him. “I figured someone’s that going to be putting time like that into me, was worth looking into,” Laser said. “The more we talked, the more and more I liked the coaches.” The effort Eastern’s coaching staff put in left a mark on Felix also, who said Eastern is getting a “diamond in the rough.” “We just felt that they weren’t just flapping their thumbs,” he said. “They were talking the talk and

walking the walk at the same time.” Laser, undecided on a major, said he wants to contribute right away. Miller understands where Laser is coming from on the issue of seeing immediate playing time. “I don’t think there’s ever been a guy to walk onto any campus that didn’t expect a starting job,” Miller said. “I really don’t. And there’s nothing wrong with that. He has aspirations to do a lot of things in basketball. He loves to play.” Laser’s competitiveness and love of basketball has rubbed some people the wrong way in Michigan. Laser was ejected from a game this year in February for disagreeing with the referees, which forced him to sit out the next game. Laser’s Hillsdale team lost the game he had to sit out, costing his team an outright conference title. The loss was also the first home loss for Hillsdale since Laser’s freshman year. But Felix said the media in the Hillsdale area put more emphasis on Laser’s attitude than what actually takes place. “He has a little bit of an edge to him,” Felix said. “He doesn’t want to lose. He might talk a little to the officials. He was trying to shake that more this year. I can see where his (bad reputation) comes from a little bit, but he’s never once spoken back to me. He’s very coachable. And the edge he has, is the edge a coach wants.”

TRACK AND FIELD | NOTEBOOK

High jumpers sweep OVC field athlete awards

By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Sophomores Ian Winston and Nicole Walcott won the Ohio Valley Conference male and female field athlete of the week, respectively. Winston received the honor after winning the high jump this past Sunday at the Calhoun Classic at Western Illinois. “He’s figured it out,” said jumps coach Nate Davis. “He went from trying too hard, to just being solid.” The Champaign native won it with a leap of 6 feet, 6 inches. “This year he came out and struggled for a while,” said senior high jumper Deb Hasik. “He’s a lot more controlled.” It is a season best for Winston and the best outdoor mark in the OVC. “I’ll be more impressed if he can be more consistent with it,” Davis said.



Nicole Walcott

Walcott won the high jump in Macomb last Sunday. She jumped a season best of 5 feet, 3 and 1/4 inches. “She’s my inspiration,” Hasik said. “She’s been more determined after medaling (at indoor conference). She’s a lot smoother over the bar. She’s more fluid.”

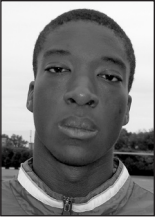
Team changes schedule

Eastern was originally scheduled to travel to the Kansas Relays in Lawrence, Kan., and the Cardinal Invitational in Louisville, Ky. this weekend. “We’ve always dealt with being split,” Hasik said. But instead of traveling to Kansas

and Kentucky, certain members of both the men’s and women’s squad will head out Terre Haute, Ind., and Nashville, Tenn. Some Panthers will compete at the Rose-Hulman Twilight in Terre Haute, while others will compete at the Vanderbilt Invitational in Nashville. “We felt that the competition better meets our needs,” Wallace said concerning the Vanderbilt Invitational. Wallace said they changed meets because the Kansas Relays would have been too many road trips before they traveled the last weekend in April to the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. “It’s a really long trip on us,” Wallace said. “It allows us to go out to Drake Relays (the next week).” The competition at Vanderbilt begins at 4 p.m. Friday, starting with the women’s long jump. Competition will resume at 10 a.m. on Saturday with the men’s hammer throw. The field at Vanderbilt will include OVC schools as well. Samford, Morehead State and Tennessee Tech are some of the OVC schools that will be present.

Hasik recovering from injury

Hasik has been out for a couple of weeks with a back injury. “It’s an ongoing injury,” Hasik said. The St. Anne native tied a seasonal best at the OVC Indoor Championships and placed tenth in the high jump with a jump of 5 feet, 2 and 1/2 inches. Hasik’s personal best is 5 feet, 9 inches.



Ian Winston

THE 4TH ANNUAL SHANNON MCNAMARA 4K RUN/WALK

Shannon Elizabeth McNamara
June 21, 1979 - June 12, 2001

DATE: Sunday April 22nd, 2007
LOCATION: Panther Trail
CHECK IN TIME: 1pm
RUN/WALK START TIME: 2pm
COST OF RUN/WALK: \$12 for pre-registration (t-shirt included) or \$15 for registration the day of the run/walk (t-shirt not included)
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Charleston Teen REACH has part time positions available now through summer. Apply at 1400 Reynolds or call 345-8005 Monday-Friday 8:30 to 4:30

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Doctors Office Receptionist needed 25 hours per week. Apply in person @ 2115 18th Street Charleston

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help wanted

Front Office Help Needed Beginning May 7. Must be a student. Apply in person 1802 Buzzard Hall.

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SOFTBALL | GAME ONE: BRADLEY 3, EASTERN 1; GAME TWO: BRADLEY 3, EASTERN 1

Losing streak extends to four games

By Matt Daniels
Sports Editor

The ball looked like a routine pop up. But it wasn't. Instead of settling into Lauren Brackett's glove in left field the ball hit by Bradley's Elizabeth Wilson hit off the top of the fence and bounced over for a home run. Wilson's home run wasn't a regular home run either.

It was a walk-off, two-run home run for Bradley in the second game of the Braves' doubleheader against Eastern. Wilson took a 1-2 riseball pitch from Eastern pitcher Kathleen Jacoby in the seventh inning to seal the win.

"We're still not sure how it got out," said Eastern head coach Kim Schuette.

Eastern lost both games of **First game of Thur.'s DH**
Bradley 3, Eastern 1

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EU	0	0	0
BU	0	0	0

WP: Birdsong (16-9) LP: Galloway, Maegan (1-2)

E: Short, Sandyn, Robison, Ashley -EU; Musgrove -BU. **LOB:** EU 5; BU 1. **HR:** Short -EU; Musgrove -BU. **HBP:** Mackie, Robyn; Robison -EU. **COONEY:** BU. **SH:** Adams, Chelsea -EU. **SB:** Wilson -BU. **CS:** Cooney -BU.

Key Inning: Bottom of the sixth
Bradley pushed across two runs without even hitting the ball out of the infield. Two Eastern errors and two wild pitches helped the Braves break out of a 1-1 tie into a 3-1 lead.

Thursday's doubleheader 3-1, extending its losing streak to four games. And for a team that last year capitalized on getting the timely break or bounce, Thursday's games epitomized the exact opposite. The Panthers (17-24) received a stellar pitching performance from junior Maegan Galloway in the first game.

The left-handed transfer from Kankakee Community College pitched six innings of one-hit ball, yet suffered the loss.

The only hit Galloway allowed came in the fifth inning, when Bradley first baseman Jessie Musgrove led off the inning with a solo home run to left-center field, giving the Braves a 1-0 lead.

The lead was short-lived, however, because Sandyn

Second game of Thur.'s DH
Bradley 3, Eastern 1

Inning by Inning	R	H	E
EU	0	0	0
BU	0	1	0

WP: Clack (3-5) LP: Jacoby, Kathleen (6-11)

E: Adams, Chelsea -EU. **LOB:** EU 2; BU 5. **2B:** Mackie, Robyn -EU; Cooney; Meister -BU. **HR:** Wilson -BU. **SH:** Cooney (2); Loete; Meister -BU. **SB:** Creighton -BU. **CS:** Nelson -EU; Clack -BU.

Key Inning: Bottom of the seventh
Bradley's Elizabeth Wilson hit what appeared to be a routine fly ball. But the ball kept traveling, hit the top of the fence in left field and went over, giving the Braves a 3-1 win.

Short hit her sixth home run of the year to tie the game at 1 in the sixth inning. Then the solid defense Eastern had shown all game against Bradley disappeared in the bottom half of the sixth. Two Bradley runners reached via a walk and an error by Eastern shortstop Ashley Robison.

Then a throwing error by Short and a wild pitch by Galloway allowed the two runners to score and give the Braves their 3-1 lead. The lead would stand, as Bradley pitcher Ashley Birdsong struck out the side in the seventh. Birdsong struck out nine Panther hitters in the game.

"Maegan Galloway threw

an outstanding game," Schuette said. "She gave up one hit and lost somehow. We just did not put the ball in play at all. It's really frustrating when you can't put the ball in play. Then you can't control anything."

Galloway struck out six and said she had good control of her inside fastball all game.

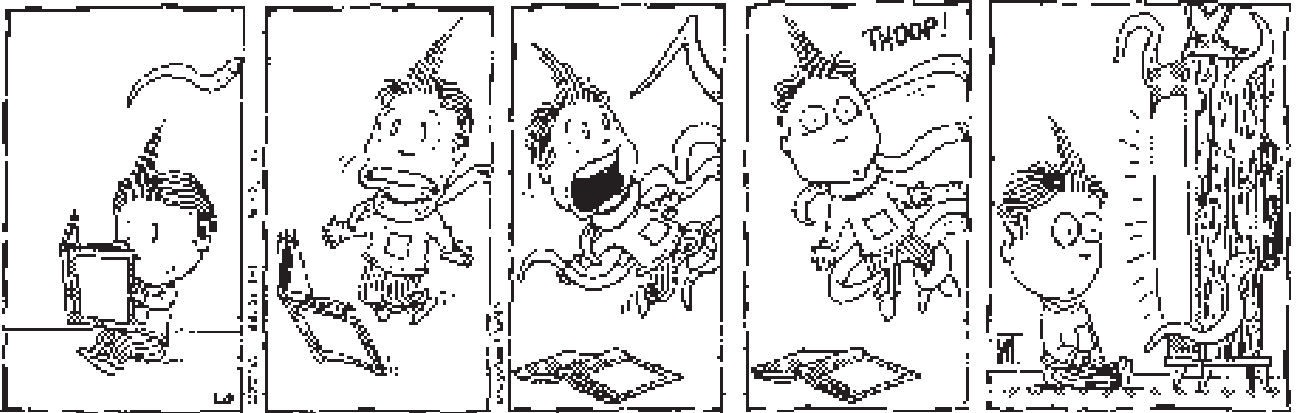
"I couldn't have asked for any more from the defense of the team," Galloway said. "It just didn't go our way. It's hard to be frustrated when everybody out there on the field does so well defensively."

The Panthers only managed three hits, two in the first inning and Short's home run, in the first game.

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Sudoku By The Mepham Group

7		9	3					
	5				8			
			7				6	
	8	2		1				
	1	8		9	4			
	4		1		3			
8			6					
	3				6			
4		1	2			5		

Level 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

5	2	8	7	9	4	3	6	1
9	4	1	3	6	5	7	8	2
7	3	6	8	2	1	9	4	5
8	7	5	6	1	3	2	9	4
4	1	9	5	8	2	6	7	3
3	6	2	4	7	9	1	5	8
6	8	4	2	3	7	5	1	9
1	5	3	9	4	8	2	7	6
2	9	7	1	5	8	4	3	6

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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0309

ACROSS

1 He appointed the first chairman of the A.E.C.

4 Secretive place

14 Simple choice

16 What a standard deviation measures

17 Oscar-nominated actress for "Leaving Las Vegas"

18 Live some times

19 Hint

21 City of the confidence of the Lough and Delaware rivers

22 Team member

24 Without a break

26 Christmas at St. Peter's

30 First lady before Eleanor

31 2000 best seller on social epidemics

37 Church of Dayles

38 Title boy in a nursery rhyme

39 Ability to feel a pitch go by

41 Historic beginning?

42 Budget item

43 Doesn't follow the party line

47 Pension supplements

51 Make good progress

53 Yellow bloomer

54 Authorial gossip

56 Crackback

58 Common winter crop

60 Hedge fun?

DOWN

1 Prescription

2 1987 BP acquisition

3 Jack's place

4 Program introduced by F.W.F.

5 Portion of intelligence?

6 Bight, bay

7 Body shops?

8 Flow

9 Singin' film composer Jon

10 In harmony

11 "Henry & June" role

12 Big birds in camp

13 Broadcast from Rockefeller Cl.

15 "Go Easy"

20 Office communications

23 How some stock is bought

25 Go straight

28 Kind of section

29 Person in a class of one

32 Part of a ship

33 Cookbook series

34 Compassion

35 Hall-of-Fame Viking

36 Tales of derring-do

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MVP	SCH	CANTIFF
AAR	ITA	ARMENIA
GRIPERS	BEANERY	
INTHECASEWHERE		
NITIL	CPLS	IAB
USE	HAE	AFINE
THESITICHSILATE		
CHOC	ANIT	
DOYOUTHINKITCAN		
AFATE	LGS	HMO
BAH	PASO	SNIPS
STILLSAVEEIGHT		
WOZNIAK	ELEANOR	
CRETANS	RID	ORU
STELMO	SAY	NAM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15		16							
17					18							
19				20		21						
22					23			24		25	26	27
			28				29			30		
31	32	33					34	35	36			
37							38					
39						40						
41							42					
43			44	45	46		47			48	49	50
						51		52				
53	54	55	56					57		58		
59										60		
61											62	

Prepared by Christopher Chang

35 Baseball, in slang	48 Things	52 Start of a Christmas cheer
36 Daniel routine	49 Be a bad winner	54 Possibilities
40 Clever or Publius	46 Where you may have a yen for shopping	55 Picked poems
44 Food for a tea, as cattle	45 Fictional matchmaker	58 1984 Sandra Bullock film
		57 Traffic at Union Sta.

For answers, call 1-800-255-0820, \$1.29 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-2594. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-800-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$24.95 a year). Show tips: nytimes.com/puzzletips. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/teachingcrosswords.

» Golf

FROM PAGE 12

"You don't hit every green in every round," Moncel said. "We're going to focus on our short game, and after that we're going to focus on our short game. When we're done with that, we're going to focus on our short game," he said semi-jokingly.

Moncel said he would rely on senior Anthony Imburgia during the OVC Championship.

In his last three tournaments, Imburgia has finished in first, second and fifth place.

Moncel said he expects good rounds from Imburgia because he is the best putter on the team.

Imburgia finished second by one stroke at the Missouri State Invitational, Moncel said, after missing a 10-inch putt on the last hole.

"It was not so much a physical problem, but a mental lapse," Moncel said.

Eastern Kentucky is looking to defend its 2006 OVC Championship victory and is primed to do so with its entire team back from last year.

Colonels' head coach Pat Stephens said he attributed this year's success to starting at a higher level than last year.

He said his team is very competitive with eight or nine guys competing in qualifying rounds to

**OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL SCORING
AVERAGE****Legend:**

OVC School, Top Men's Golfer, Scoring Average, OVC Rank

Austin Peay, Grant Leaver, 71.4, 2

Eastern Illinois, Anthony Imburgia, 74.1 T20

Eastern Kentucky, Shaun McConnell, 72.3, 6

Jacksonville State, Daniel Willett, 71.8, T3

Morehead State, Matt Gann, 72.5, T7

Murray State, Michael Craft, 73.6, 15

Samford, Reed Davis, 73.0, T10

Tennessee State, Adam Gruber, 74.0 T18

Tennessee Tech, Scott Stallings, 71.1 1

Tennessee-Martin, Robert Lents, 74.4 26

**OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE
MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

Dates: April 22-24

Location: Paducah, Ky.

Number of holes: 54

Team winner on Tuesday afternoon gets an automatic birth to the NCAA Championships

represent the team at tournaments.

The competition among the team has led to competitiveness at

tournaments, Stephens said.

Stephens said the OVC Championship is different from other tournaments because his team doesn't face other OVC very often and the level of play in the OVC is high.

"The parity in the conference is getting closer and closer," Stephens said. "When we all get together for the championship there is some added pressure because a spot in the NCAA Regional is up for grabs."

Stephens said the Country Club of Paducah would be a challenging course.

He said the finishing holes on the back nine are very difficult, and a golfer can't get away with a wayward shot.

He also said he is stressing the short game at practice.

"That's going to save us when our ball-striking is down," Stephens said.

Stephens said Tennessee Tech golfer Scott Stallings is one of the best golfers in the OVC and could carry his team to the end.

Stallings leads the OVC in stroke average at 71.1 and has won three tournaments this year.

He has five other top 10 finishes this season as well.

Tech head coach Bobby Nichols said Stallings hits the ball a long way and his short game has improved tremendously.

"He hasn't played bad yet anywhere," Nichols said.

» Tennis

FROM PAGE 12

EKU has been inconsistent at the top of their singles line-up, but their No. 5 and 6 players have been dominant.

No single member of the team has competed in either slot more than nine times this season, but combined Colonels have racked up an impressive 19-7 record at No. 5 singles and an even better 21-6 record at No. 6 singles.

The Panther men will enter the

match against EKU following losses in three of their last four matches, but Blackburn said the team's confidence is still high and they are trying to carry that into the OVC Championship.

No. 4 singles player junior Chris Thomas said he knew right from the start this team was going to be much better than last year's squad.

"We didn't lose anyone and we actually got stronger with (freshmen) Jeff Rutherford who has been great," Thomas said. "Everyone on this team knows we can win any match we go into."

**OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS
SCHEDULES****2007 O'REILLY OVC WOMEN'S
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE****Friday, April 20 – First Round**

Match 1 - #4 UT Martin vs. #5 Eastern Kentucky – 10:00 a.m.

Match 2 - #3 Eastern Illinois vs. #6 Southeast Missouri – 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 21 - Semifinals

Match 3 - #1 Samford vs. winner of #4 UT Martin/#5 Eastern Kentucky – 10:00 a.m.

Match 4 - #2 Murray State vs. winner of #3 Eastern Illinois/#6 Southeast Missouri – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 22 – Championship

Match 5 – Championship – 10:00 a.m.

**2007 O'REILLY OVC MEN'S
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE****Friday, April 20 – First Round**

Match 1 - #4 Eastern Kentucky vs. #5 Eastern Illinois – 2:00 p.m.

Match 2 - #3 Samford vs. #6 Murray State – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 21 – Semifinals

Match 3 - #1 Jacksonville State vs. winner of #4 Eastern Kentucky/#5 Eastern Illinois – 2:00 p.m.

Match 4 - #2 Tennessee Tech vs. winner of #3 Samford vs. #6 Murray State – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 22 – Championship

Match 5 – Championship – 2:00 p.m.



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ALL ACCESS WITH ...

STEPHANIE HARMAZY

Canadian native aspires to be athletic trainer

Stephanie Harmazy is one of two Canadians on the women’s tennis team. Yet, the junior from Richmond, Canada, finds playing tennis at Eastern the furthest thing from uncomfortable. Although she said she played tennis since she was about 16, Harmazy said she came to the United States because she believes the sport is taken more seriously here.

And for someone who hopes to be an athletic trainer for a tennis player one day, that’s just what she wants.

Online Interactive Editor Kevin Kenealy sat down with Harmazy to discuss her playing at Eastern, her life in Canada and a few off-the-wall questions for Stephanie thrown in just for fun.

HOW WOULD YOU REFLECT ON THE PAST SEASON?

It’s been a rough year but in a way I think I play each match better, like I learn from my losing. Every time I step on the court, each match I play a lot better, and honestly, I don’t pay much attention to my record. It’s just how I play and that’s what’s going to help the team. You can’t do anything about the past, but you can do something about the future.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE LOSS TO MURRAY STATE?

Oh, yeah. I mean every loss is a disappointment and I play 110 percent every time and that’s all I can do out there. I mean, I’ve learned a lot from the girl (I played against) and hopefully I can play her again in conference so I know what to do. So I mean, that’s the only thing I’m looking forward to. It’s disappointing because it’s home field advantage but, next time.



Junior women’s tennis player Stephanie Harmazy is a transfer from Missouri State. The Canadian native is joined by her fellow Canadian teammate sophomore Natalie Martin. Martin, an exercise major, wants to be a professional trainer and work with a professional player or team.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO COME TO EASTERN?

Well, I started tennis really late and I picked up the sport really fast and I loved it. And in Canada you really don’t get the opportunity to play for a team sport at a school. So that’s why I picked the States on that. I went to Missouri State my freshman year and then things didn’t work out there so the coach of Missouri State talked to Tennis Canada, who knew the coach of Eastern Illinois so that is how that came about!

WHAT’S DIFFERENT BETWEEN HERE AND CANADA?

Well, where I’m from, I live in the city. And it’s huge; everything is so close. I don’t even have a car where I live because you don’t need one. And for here, there’s really nothing to do, but I got used to it within a few weeks and I love it. You just hang out with your friends more than go out and do stuff by yourself when you’re in the city.

WHAT’S IT LIKE TO COMPETE WITH A FELLOW CANADIAN?

It’s awesome because every time my friends off the tennis team are like, “Well, I’m going home this weekend” and it’s just great because I’m staying here. But it really works out because we can just stay here on the weekend because we’re just here for each other on and off the court.

WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE TEAM AS A TIGHT-KNIT GROUP?

Yeah, we’ve always been like that last year just because it’s a smaller team and we know each other so well. And every single moment we get, we just get a sandwich and we get a picnic here and there and the parents really help out with that.

WHO DO YOU ESPECIALLY BOND WITH ON THE TEAM?

I honestly treat everyone the same on the team, like I wouldn’t pick out one person and say I like her better than another person. But obviously, I mean, Natalie (Martin), she’s my roommate and I’ve been through good and bad times with her so I think I’ve been with her more than other teammates; but I can’t pick out one teammate and say “I like them better than the other.”

HOW DOES RICHMOND COMPARE WITH MONTREAL?

Yeah, Richmond is a city about 10 minutes away from Vancouver. And it’s like Montreal, yeah. Vancouver is the same as Montreal, but it’s just like a bridge that separates Vancouver and Richmond.

WHAT IS THE TENNIS LIKE UP IN CANADA?

Honestly, I’ve started playing tennis when I was like 16 so all I’ve played was one year of high school tennis from this team tennis because you’re playing

for yourself up there and it’s not really a team thing. I really haven’t played in that many competitions, and tournaments you enter individually, so there’s nothing ‘team.’ And that’s about it.

WHY DO TENNIS PLAYERS, INCLUDING YOURSELF, GRUNT?

(Laughs), I don’t know. I guess it really just helps you focus. I guess just ‘cause when you’re on impact, you breathe out and it just helps me I guess.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR EXERCISE MAJOR?

Well, I want to work to be a professional trainer and my goal is to work with a professional sports team or maybe work with a pro tennis player.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BUY AT THE GROCERY STORE?

Yeah, I am obsessed with oatmeal, just like plain oatmeal, and just put raisins in it. I’m really weird. And I also do yogurt and the granola stuff. I am obsessed with that. I have to get that every time I go to the store.

DO YOU HAVE ANY WEIRD SUPERSTITION OR RITUALS?

Actually yeah, we are pretty weird. Before every game we do a cheer altogether and it goes, “Will we bleed blue; who are we? EIU!”

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

Back at home, this is really weird, but I love just working out and conditioning and stuff like that. So I do that every time I have free time and I love playing different sports whenever I have the time. Back home, I used to ski a lot and between skiing and track, I like it.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING STORY?

I went to a Catholic elementary and if it’s your birthday, every Friday there’s an assembly and at the assembly the entire school sits down and if it’s your birthday, they call your name and sing to you “Happy Birthday.” And they called my name, and both my feet were asleep and I got up and I fell down and fell on my face in front of everyone. So they dragged me up there and held me up and they were singing me “Happy Birthday” and I was crying.

IF YOU HAD AN IDOL, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

My idol probably would have to be my mom because she honestly knows me like the back of my hand. She’s so smart and every time I’m down, I could just call her up and she’s been there for me every second I need her.

AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

WOMEN'S TENNIS

TODAY at Ohio Valley Conference Tournament vs. Southeast Missouri | 10 a.m. Nashville, Tenn.

MEN'S TENNIS

TODAY at Ohio Valley Conference Tournament vs. Eastern Kentucky | 2 p.m. Nashville, Tenn.

TRACK AND FIELD

FRIDAY at Vanderbilt Invitational | All Day. Nashville, Tenn.

TRACK AND FIELD

SATURDAY at Vanderbilt Invitational | All Day. Nashville, Tenn.

BASEBALL

SATURDAY vs. Samford | 1 p.m. DH. Coaches Stadium.

SOFTBALL

SATURDAY vs. Morehead State | 1 p.m. DH. Williams Stadium.

BASEBALL

SUNDAY vs. Samford | 1 p.m. Coaches Stadium.

SOFTBALL

SUNDAY vs. Morehead State | Noon. Williams Stadium.

triplethreat



The men's and women's tennis teams return to the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament today. The men are making their first trip back since 2004, while the women had a one-year break from making it in 2005.

The Panther women are a third seed, while the men are the fifth seed under the leadership of Eastern head coach John Blackburn (above).

The men's team will play Eastern Kentucky in Nashville, Tenn., while the women will play Southeast Missouri in the Music City also.

Here are the three top moments from the season.

1. Martin and Homburg knock off Lask twins - Doubles partners Hayley Homburg and Natalie Martin defeated Murray State's Anna and Rachael Lask last Sunday. The Lask twins were previously undefeated in conference and the EIU duo had only dropped one conference match.

2. Jeff Rutherford- The freshman from Richmond, Ky., has been a consistent solid No. 5 singles player for the men's squad. He is 15-4 and 6-3 in the OVC. Rutherford is able to play the court and uses his speed across the court to somehow return opponent's potential winners.

3. Martin and Sasidharan - These consistent players have contrasting styles that allow them to be successful and help the Panthers win matches. Martin plays an aggressive game at the net. Sandra Sasidharan, a junior, is able to wear down her opponents, by hitting shots to across the court and is a good baseline player. What has this resulted in? A combined record of 36-4 in singles play. Both were named to the first team OVC list.

-Kevin Murphy

MEN'S GOLF | OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Eastern to face relative strangers in tourney

By Scott Richey
Online News Editor

The Ohio Valley Conference men's golf tournament is different from conference tournaments in other OVC sports because there is very little competition between OVC teams during the season.

In sports like basketball, baseball and volleyball, regular season play pits OVC teams against each other at least twice per year before the end-of-the-year tournament.

The same is not true for OVC golf teams. OVC teams face a myriad of opponents in different tournaments throughout both the fall and spring seasons.

Eastern's men's golf team has faced Bradley and Evansville, Missouri Valley Conference teams, more often than they have faced some OVC opponents, but they have beaten every OVC team except Jacksonville State at least once this year, including the fall season.

The men's team was able to see how they stacked up against some OVC teams at the Tennessee State Intercollegiate Tournament from

April 9-10. Their third place finish placed them ahead of Tennessee-Martin, Morehead State, Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State, but they finished 28 strokes behind first place Murray State. The true test of the men's team competitiveness against fellow OVC schools will come April 22-24 at the O'Reilly OVC Championship held at the Country Club of Paducah in Paducah, Ky.

Eastern head coach Mike Moncel said the men's team has a chance to win the tournament if the team plays its best golf from top to bottom. He said in the OVC Championship there is little difference among teams and the winner depends on who's hot.

Austin Peay head coach Kirk Kayden said three or four teams have a good chance to win, but agreed with Moncel it comes down to who is playing well during the three days of the tournament.

Kayden said his team relies on the experience of it seniors that have played for four years. He said it is beneficial that seniors Yoshio Yamamoto, Justin Metzger and Chris Barron have all been through the grind of a college golf season before. All three Governors' seniors are ranked in the top

15 in the OVC Top 30 stroke average.

Austin Peay's two best players, however, are junior Grant Leaver and freshman Erik Barnes, ranked No. 2 and No. 3 in the OVC stroke average, respectively.

Barnes was named OVC Co-Golfer of the Week after winning his first career tournament the Arkansas State Indian Classic two weeks ago. Barnes finished at 10 under par; four strokes better than second place.

Kayden said he knew Barnes had the key elements to being a good golfer when he recruited him. He said Barnes is very confident in his game and is also a good putter.

That putting prowess will be needed during the OVC Championships. Both Moncel and Kayden said the greens at the Country Club of Paducah are very difficult.

"The greens are lightning fast with lots of undulation and slope," Moncel said.

One thing Moncel said he has emphasized in the practices leading up to the OVC Championships is his players' play around the greens.

» SEE GOLF, PAGE 10

TENNIS | OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior Sean Bush returns a serve during his doubles match against Eastern Kentucky last Friday at Darling Courts.

Panthers headed to Nashville

Women's team set to battle SEMO, Kristal twins

By Joe Waltasti
Sports Reporter

Mark Elliott could not believe his ears when he received a surprising phone call last year.

Elliott had returned to the United States after coaching five years tennis in China and was on the lookout for a new job.

On the other end of the line were two twin girls he coached when they were just eight years old, growing up in Pleasanton, Calif. The twins were Drew and Bryce Kristal, informing Elliott that their head coach at SEMO had left and the school was searching for a replacement.

"The girls told me to send in my application and that was it," said Elliot, currently in his first year as SEMO's head coach. "They really got me the job. Tennis is such a small world, a small fraternity, and you meet a lot of people in my 50 years in the game."

Bryce and Drew Kristal, now juniors at SEMO who play together in doubles and at No. 1 and 2 singles respectively, could not lead their team to victory against the Panthers when they met in the regular season. Eastern pulled out a 4-3 victory on April 10 and the



JOHN BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman Hayley Homburg hits a forehand shot during her doubles match against Eastern Kentucky last Friday at Darling Courts.

two teams will square off again in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference Championships.

"The weather conditions were

pretty rough – strong wind and the threat of rain," Elliott said. "I think in better weather we match up very well."

After falling short the last two seasons, both the men's and women's teams are headed to Nashville, Tenn.

Finishing the season with a 12-8 overall record and 7-3 mark in the OVC, the Panthers earned the No. 3 seed and will play No. 6 seeded SEMO. The men earned the No. 5 seed in the tournament and finished the season 13-7 overall with a 5-4 record in conference play.

The women will play first on Friday morning at the Centennial Sportsplex, kicking off the tournament at 10 a.m. The men will follow at 2 p.m.

"It was very recently that we played (SEMO)," said Eastern head coach John Blackburn. "It's fresh in our minds and we think we know how to approach them."

If they win, the women will play No. 2 seed Murray State, who defeated the Panthers 5-2 on April 15.

The men have a more difficult path to travel in the tournament.

They drew No. 4 seeded Eastern Kentucky who blew out the Panthers in Charleston, 7-0.

» SEE TENNIS, PAGE 10



Puttin' around the course

By **Dylan Divit**
Verge Reporter

Situated in the middle of Peterson Park, behind the little league fields, Vinnie and Al's Pla-Mor Golf in Mattoon looks like something out of the '70s.

The mini-golf course, located at 500 Broadway Ave., at Peterson Park in Mattoon, is now owned by Vince Walk, a Mattoon native and high school economics teacher in Mattoon. Walk bought the facility in the summer of 2000.

While the history of the course dates back to the early '70s, back when bell-bottom jeans and disco-fever were cool, mini-golf itself developed much earlier in 19th century Scotland and is still popular today.

"The course is pretty much the way it was back when it was built," Walk said. "I've made some small changes here and there, but it has more of a vintage theme if anything."

Complete renovation, adding hills and electronic obstacles could sharpen the

course image, but would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, Walk said.

This does not mean, though, that Walk does not put efforts into the course.

After buying the course Walk had to update the dilapidated greens, and he did so with turf from the Seattle Seahawks' old stadium before it was imploded.

Numbers from the field can still be seen on the turf, Walk said.

Most time Walk spends at the course is dedicated to running it, but he will gladly play a round with a group of friends from time to time.

Nonetheless, the course is a great way to stay involved in the community, he said.

The draw of mini-golf is family and friends.

Families can come together and enjoy themselves while also being competitive, Walk said.

The best score Walk can remember was from a five-year-old boy who shot a 24.

"Anymore, it's hard for Grandparents to talk to their grandchildren, but we see them coming together and connecting during

mini-golf," Walk said.

Both adults and children can get competitive on the green.

Little kids come out are just as competitive as the adults, which is funny, Walk said.

Aside from being fun, Vinnie and Al's sets a positive example every year when it holds its official tournament donating the proceeds to St. Jude Memorial Hospital. Vinnie and Al's also opens the course for free during the cancer walk in Peterson Park.

Myles Hastings, a sophomore community health major at the University of Illinois, has worked at Vinnie and Al's for the past two summers.

Hastings said summer jobs don't get much better.

"Everyone is in a good mood here. I even have regulars who demand that I remember their favorite sno-cone flavors," Hastings said.

On slow days Hastings can play on the course or take a few cuts in the batting cages, also found at Vinnie and Al's.

The atmosphere of mini-golf is both competitive and relaxing. While some folks enjoy a relaxing round just for fun, some also make wagers.

"I'm not condoning it or encouraging it, but I'm aware that some play for a little money...which they use towards extra sno-cones, of course," Hastings said.

Vinnie and Al's is tentatively planning to open for the season this weekend.

A closer mini-golf course can be found in Charleston at the Putt-N-Swing, 920 17th St., and is where Eastern holds its annual intramural competitions.

Layout of the Putt-N-Swing is rather basic as the place could use some fixing up and better obstacles.

"It hasn't done particularly well for us," said Brian Jones, Director of Charleston Parks and Recreations.

It could use improvements, Jones said.

Whether playing for sport or fun, a hole-in-one on the infamous 19th hole has patrons trying for free games.

At Putt-N-Swing, golfers must hit their ball through the clowns nose for a challenge.

Watson Park members cope with cancer

By **Stacy Smith**
Verge Reporter

Going to school and being part of a band is a struggle.

Classes. Practices. Late night shows.

The six musicians of Watson Park, however, didn't realize they would be challenged with more than just passing classes and scheduling gigs.

In November, the band's drummer, Nate Staggs, was diagnosed with Leukemia.

"Nate is everybody's friend," said Matt Cook, electric guitar player and sophomore at the University of Kentucky. "He's so charismatic."

The band members were shocked when they first heard the news about their close friend.

"It was so strange to see someone we grew up with be diagnosed, and he was so healthy," Cook said. "We've learned not to take things for granted anymore."

With Staggs' life-changing experience presented before them, the band members wanted to show thanks and help others fight the illness by working with the Kentucky Theatre to raise money for the Leukemia Research Foundation.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY WATSON PARK

Watson Park will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at Common Grounds in Mattoon. Band member Nate Staggs was diagnosed with Leukemia in November, but the band still plays.

While creating an electric variation of folk songs, the band is not generating as much as a sound as it hoped yet, but it continues to record albums and develop a new sound without a drummer.

When feeling strong, Staggs attends practices as much as he can while receiving

radiation treatment.

"Nate is so much a part of the band and we work so well together; we haven't even taken into consideration replacing him," said Philip Dunn, vocalist for Watson Park and junior at Eastern Kentucky University.

The members attend school during the

WATSON PARK CONCERT

» **Who:** Watson Park, a band that creates an electric variation of folk songs

» **Where:** Common Grounds in Mattoon

» **When:** Saturday at 8 p.m.

» **Price:** The concert is free of charge

week, rehearse on Sundays and travel on Friday and Saturday.

"We are a band and we play as a group," Cook said. "Any one person missing is irreplaceable."

Most of the members attend the University of Kentucky, and all think school is a major priority of the music business.

"We go to school to learn more about the music industry while playing in a band and learning about music first hand," Dunn said. "This way we can still be in the music business if Watson Park doesn't work out."

The band came up with the name Watson Park because the founding members are Spiderman fans.

"We love the Spiderman movie, especially the cartoon," Dunn said. "We got Watson from the character Mary Jane Watson and Park from Peter Parker."

Pedaling for a cause

Exchange Club of Charleston to host bike ride fundraiser for child abuse prevention, other charities

By Kristina Peters
Associate Verge Editor

Bike riding is not just for recreation; it is also for charity.

The Exchange Club of Charleston is hosting Tour De Exchange, a one-day bike riding fundraiser event Saturday.

Participants will have the choice of riding three routes in an effort to raise money for child abuse prevention and other causes. The three routes are 10 miles, 25 miles and 50 miles.

Child abuse prevention is the focus of the Exchange Club, but the organization has also raised money for Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Services and the Children's Advocacy Group.

"It seems that most bike tours offer a variety (of routes)," said Lisa Madlem, publicity chair for the Exchange Club.

The 10-mile route takes the biker along the Charleston bike path and the 25-mile route goes through Westfield and back to Charleston. The 50-mile route is much more scenic.

It takes the rider through Westfield, Cumberland County, past the Lincoln Log Cabin and back to Charleston.

Everyday bike riders will likely take the 10-mile

route, while the serious bikers will attempt the 50-mile one, Madlem said.

There will be three rest stops on the bike routes: Westfield Park, Plum Grove Church and Lincoln Log Cabin State Park.

For Eastern students, the Tour De Exchange offers students a chance to meet new people and help out a good cause, as well as see more of the community.

"Eastern students can see some of the countryside," Madlem said.

Madlem said, the Exchange Club of Charleston started about two years ago after the Exchange Club of Mattoon, which started about 30 years ago, contacted the right people to get one started in Charleston.

At one of the Charleston club's weekly meetings, the members were discussing ideas for a charity event and the idea of doing the bike tour came about.

The organization meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at What's Cookin' and is trying to recruit new members.

Madlem hopes the Tour De Exchange will be a success, but as with any event being held for the first time, it's hard to say if a lot of people will participate.

"Anytime you do a fundraising event the first time, people aren't as familiar with it," she said.

The Exchange Club's goal for the event is 100 riders. People can sign up at Rural King, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Entrance fees are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children with a maximum of \$80 per family. Fees include color-coded maps, snacks and a T-shirt.

Rain or shine, participants are still welcome to ride, but Madlem is hoping to see the sun.

"The weather is supposed to be beautiful," she said.

» Watson

FROM PAGE B1

To some of the members, music is a way to escape reality.

"Music is basically like writing in a journal," Dunn said. "It's a way to get away from everything for like an hour or so."

Ever since Scott Singleton was 15 years old, he dreamed of performing live music.

"Music is an outlet more than anything," said Singleton, bass player for Watson Park and junior at the University of Kentucky. "It's very fun and has always been a dream of mine to pursue my own music."

The band gets its inspiration from current events that are occurring in members' lives, such as relationships, religion and personal experiences.

Cook stressed the importance of producing music one wants to play instead of playing music the audience wants to hear.

"Make music you want to make; don't just try to please other people," he said. "What you're passionate about is how you'll play your best and other people will get into that."



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playlist



Megan Dolan
Greek Week Steering
Committee Co-Chair

The Verge: Why is "Glamorous" by Fergie one of your favorite songs?

Dolan: I heard this song so many times on Spring Break. It instantly takes me back to the Bahamas.

"Suddenly I See"
KT Turnstall
"Summer Love"
Justin Timberlake
"Glamorous"
Fergie
"Waiting on the World to Change"
John Mayer
"Konstantine"
Something Corporate

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Local Community Events Calendar

TODAY

Full Circle Concert

Time | 6 p.m.

Location | Our Daily Bread Cafe in Mattoon

More info | Full Circle describes themselves as “gospel music with a twist.”

The Mattoon band has made Our Daily Bread Cafe their Friday night venue and performs there almost every Friday night.

The event is free and open to the public.

‘Painting Churches’

Time | 7:30 p.m.

Location | Tarble Arts Center

More info | This play is a three-person comedy-drama. It tells the story of a daughter who tries to balance working as a painter and helping her parents move out of their home.

This play is presented by the Charleston Community Theatre and reservations can be made by calling Tarble at (217) 581-2787.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students.

SATURDAY

Tour De Exchange

Time | 7:30 a.m.

Location | Rural King in Charleston

More info | The Exchange Club of Charleston is hosting Tour De Exchange, a one-day bike riding fundraiser event for the prevention of child abuse.

People can sign up at Rural King from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. to participate. There will be three routes to choose from.

For more information, check out page B2.

SUNDAY

‘A Musical Tour’

Time | 4 p.m.

Location | McAfee South Auditorium

More info | The Eastern Symphony

Orchestra/Choral Ensembles presents the musical event “A Musical Tour.”

The concert will feature orchestral and choral masterpieces from early Baroque to contemporary works. Richard Rossi is the conductor.

Chinese Watercolor Painting Demonstration

Time | 1:30 p.m.

Location | Tarble Arts Center

More info | Artist Jungang Liu, from Beijing, will give a demonstration of traditional Chinese watercolor painting techniques.

Liu studied traditional Chinese landscape paintings at the Central Institute of Arts in Beijing.

This demonstration is sponsored by the Department of Art and the College of Arts and Humanities.

ROLLING EVENTS

2007 Graduate Art Exhibition

Duration | Through April 29

Location | Tarble Arts Center

More info | This Eastern Master of Arts Studio Art group exhibition presents the work created by Scott Aigner, Derek Clem, Judy Dethmers, Betty Farmer, Zach Huelsing, Jamie Kruidenier, and Connie Richards.

This exhibition is co-sponsored with the EIU Art Department.

‘Tales Untold: The Stories of Folk Art’

Duration | Through July 29

Location | Tarble Arts Center

More info | The background and traditions of Illinois folk arts are explored in this exhibition.

It features quilts, carvings, dolls, models and other projects. All of the art was made from the 1970s through the 1990s in east central and southeastern Illinois.

Tarble Arts Center’s permanent collection was researched by and created with the 2007 EIU Historical Administration graduate students.

If you would like your events on our calendar, please e-mail them to denverge@gmail.com or call 217-581-2812.

trailertalk

-By Online Editor Adam Tedder

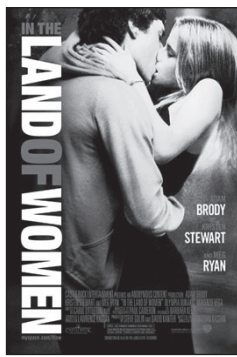


Director: Nimrod Antal
Starring: Luke Wilson, Kate Beckinsale

Beckinsale and Wilson find themselves as the possible new stars (and victims) of a violent film they want no part of in “Vacancy.”

This suspense/thriller movie has the young couple pulling off the highway to stay in a hotel where they discover hidden video cameras and videos of people being murdered in their room.

The trailer makes this film look interesting, but these films are usually hit or miss. Recommended for those who are fans of the genre.



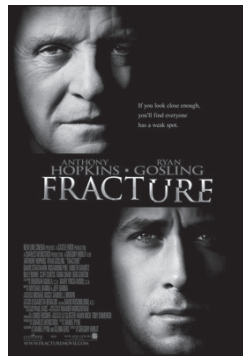
Director: Jon Kasdan
Starring: Adam Brody, Meg Ryan, Kristen Stewart

Former “OC” star Brody continues to find himself surrounded by women in his latest flick, “In the Land of Women.”

Brody plays Carter Webb, a TV writer who has a rough breakup with a famous actress and goes to help his sick grandmother recover.

Brody currently sits in the transition phase from television to film, and this film could help his career a good deal.

Brody’s name and fame from the “OC” should fill some seats, but the verdict on this movie is still out.



Director: Gregory Hoblit
Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Ryan Gosling

Hopkins appears to have returned to his full-out creepy form in “Fracture.”

Hopkins’ character believes he has crafted the perfect crime when he kills his wife and confesses to it, but things are not as they seem when a young hotshot attorney (Gosling) tries to close the case.

This movie promises to be one of the best suspense/thrillers of the year. This movie looks like it will keep viewers’ attention. Recommended to give a shot in theaters.

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ON THE VERGE | PONCEONLINE.COM | FRIDAY 4.20.07 | PAGE B4

Museum displays local artists' work

By Jason Duarte
Verge Interactive Reporter

The Paris Bicentennial Art Center was built almost 200 years ago.

At that time, it was simply home to Paris's first postmaster, Milton Alexander. The house is considered to be one of the first built in Paris, located 28 miles east of Charleston, during the early 1800s.

"During the 1850s, it's been told that the Alexanders entertained a lot here," said Susan Stafford, director of the Bicentennial Art Center.

"They entertained Abraham Lincoln as well as Stephen Douglas; both were guests here at the Alexander Home in about the mid-1800s."

The Alexanders were not the only owners of the house, but their name has stayed.

"The house was given through the years, it passed on; it was sold many times of course and so forth. So it's always been called the Alexander Home."

About 100 years later, the Alexander House began to serve as a home for various artists' works.

"It was during the early 1940s that the Paris Women's Club started an art department and held art exhibits," Stafford said.

Janet Messenger, former director of the Bicentennial Art Center, said during that period of time, the club members would display their own artwork among other artists.

"It was started over 50 years ago by a group of women who were painters, and they would get together and paint and wanted to know and learn more about art," Messenger said.

The small group of curious, local female artists grew over time forcing them to find new places to meet.

"They met for a time in the basement of a library over in Paris, and then the group grew in size,



BRANDON CAMPBELL | ON THE VERGE

The Bicentennial Art Center and Museum in Paris is the home to many Illinois and Indiana artists' work. The center has a rich history filled with local lore and connections to Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

and they moved into the building where they are now," Messenger said. "It was the first brick home that was ever built in Paris. It's a quite a large brick home."

At this time, a man named Paxton Link owned the building. The Bicentennial Art Center started when Link owned the house.

Link donated the building to the Bicentennial Art Center in 1980 to commemorate his wife.

"She was one of the founding members and original artists," Messenger said.

The art center has been running as not-for-profit since.

Because a board of directors runs the center, a lot of volunteers come in, Stafford said.

The Bicentennial Art Center usually holds exhibits showcasing different forms of art from local or Illinois residents, but sometimes

there is art from further abroad.

"Right now, at this particular time, they have an exhibit up of the Edgar County schools' student artwork," Messenger said. "The Partners in Education exhibit is up on the second floor. They have galleries on the main floor and on the second floor they also have a classroom up there where they have the classes and workshops."

The art center also has various interest groups that meet on different schedules as well.

Groups available include painting and ceramics.

"It's a wonderful resource," Messenger said. "We have worked with Tarble (Arts Center at Eastern) and down in Effingham, so we kind of are networking with other art groups in the area."

The art center tries to pull in more local artists than anyone else, Stafford said.

"We try to stick with as many local as we can to get," Stafford said.

For most exhibits, there are receptions open to the public.

"They invite the artists to come in and visit with the people that come in, so they can get better acquainted with the work," Messenger said.

Stafford explained the present and future exhibits that the Paris Art Center will have on display.

"We do have a sculpture that someone donated to us that's here. Most of the time, you can see it, but most of our permanent collections are in storage right now," Stafford said. "Next month, we'll be doing 'Paint Illinois', which is open only to Illinois artists. It's a juried exhibition and so it's open to artists in Illinois to come in and bring in artwork and it's judged and we do give out cash

awards on that particular one."

With a change of directors, the Bicentennial Art Center is trying to get more Illinois artists.

"The director (Mary Ann Michna) we had before was from Indiana and had brought in quite a few Indiana artists," Stafford said. "And there's nothing wrong with that, but we are funded by Illinois Arts Council, so we are trying to go back to more intermediate people coming in here and so that's kind of our goal, to keep it local kinds of things, so people will come in and see local work and so forth."

The Bicentennial Art Center is also a sort of home to Alice Baber, an artist from Paris who died in 1982. Baber was a painter who moved to New York where she has a permanent collection.

"We did end up with quite a few pieces in our permanent collection from her. She was a well-known artist," Stafford said. "She uses a lot of bright colors in her palettes when she did her paintings. When we look at them, they don't look like anything to us, but you know, she could interpret what they were, so I guess you call that more of a modern technique."

Her paintings changed over time, especially after she was diagnosed with cancer.

"Then some of her paintings got a little darker when she was ill, but they're real bright colors," Stafford said. "She uses a lot of bright blues and yellows. They're very nice pieces."

With the building being almost 200 years old, the Bicentennial Art Center's faculty attempted to induct it into the historic registry.

"It is a very historic building," Stafford said. "We did try to get it in the historic registry, but they said it had too many modifications made to it. In fact, when I started working here two and a half years ago, I drove past this place all the time and I didn't really pay any attention to it."

The Paris Bicentennial Art Center is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Arthur House famous for architecture, history of building

By Brad York
Verge Reporter

A Victorian home that acts as a museum as well may not sound appealing, but work and craft can change some minds.

Paris, located 28 miles east of Charleston, is home to many Italianate architecture-styled houses, including the Arthur House, which also serves as a historic museum.

"The home is a Victorian House that was designed with Italian architecture," said Patsy Berry of the Edgar County Historical Society.

The Arthur House was built in 1872. Red brick covers the entire outside of the house, and the builder, Clay Moss, had squares on his mind when designing the building layout, Berry said.

One of the unique features

of Italianate architecture is the massing.

Dave Taylor, a Victorian home expert, said Italianate Architecture is defined as "a style of home that has rectangular massing in the body of the house."

Taylor has been a fan of the homes since he was young, and he has spent many years researching these houses and their unique features.

The first Italianate architecture home was based off the villas of northern Italy. They began to gain popularity in the U.S. in the 1840s. The style set an alternative to other over used styles, such as gothic.

Southern states are less likely to have an Italianate architecture style of home due to the American Civil War and all the home burnings. The home styles were set up as a standard middle class household. The buildings were affordable, yet elegant.



BRANDON CAMPBELL | ON THE VERGE

The Arthur House in Paris was built in 1872 and constructed in an Italianate architecture style. It serves as a historical museum for Edgar County.

The Arthur House, which is now partially a museum, has one room dedicated to past president Abraham Lincoln. During the

10 years Lincoln was a lawyer, he visited the town several times.

The rest of the downstairs of the Arthur House is set up like a

Victorian home from the 1860s to set an atmosphere of how the home actually functioned.

The house was sold to Daniel and Charity Arthur in 1895 and was forever known as the Arthur House.

"They bought the house and only lived in it during the winter so the children could still attend school" said Berry.

The Arthurs soon lived in the home on a full-time basis, though, Berry said.

Now the house serves as a museum, which is open for tours and is also the headquarters for the Edgar County Historical Society.

The society is comprised of volunteers that just want to preserve a little part of history. Berry has worked for the society off and on since 1980 and loves being a part of it.

The tours are free and inform visitors of the Arthur House's history and architecture.